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	TITLE: Results of the 2005-06 Quail and Pheasant Habitat Priority Area Projects	
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OVERVIEW

Beginning in July of 2004, the Division of Fish and Wildlife began focusing Game Bird Habitat Stamp Program funds in targeted areas around the state to augment existing game bird habitats and increase the chances of local pheasant and quail populations finding suitable nesting, brood-rearing and escape cover as broods expand into surrounding areas. A total of \$100,000 in Game Bird Habitat Stamp funds was divided among 7 Pheasant Habitat Priority Areas and 7 Quail Habitat Priority Areas (See Exhibit A). The program provides landowners standardized habitat development/management payments and one-time incentive payments for enrolling lands in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and for voluntarily enrolling existing CRP lands into Mid-Contract Management activities designed to increase habitat quality for pheasants and quail.

RESULTS

For the 2005-06 fiscal year, 219 practices involving the development/maintenance of 1,581.66 acres of pheasant and quail habitat were received and approved for cost-share assistance through the Game Bird Habitat Stamp Program. The total estimated cost of the proposed projects was \$94,748.99 requesting \$83,438.39 in cost-share assistance. By the end of the project year, a total of 140 projects (64 % of the proposed projects) had been completed and involved the development and/or maintenance of 1,111.4 acres of habitat. The total cost of completed projects was valued at \$59,734.74 with the Game Bird Habitat Stamp Program providing \$51,946.33 in cost-share reimbursement.

In the Pheasant Habitat Priority Areas, a total of 67 practices involving the development and/or maintenance of 580.65 acres of pheasant habitat were received and approved for cost-share assistance. The total estimated cost of the proposed projects was \$37,966.07, requesting \$31,547.25 in cost-share assistance. By the end of the project year, a total of 44 projects (66 % of the proposed projects) had been completed and involved the development and/or maintenance of 420.69 acres of pheasant habitat. The total cost of completed projects was valued at \$28,279.71 with the Game Bird Habitat Stamp Program providing \$22,285.14 in cost-share reimbursement.

In the Quail Habitat Priority Areas, a total 152 practices involving the development and/or maintenance of 1001.01 acres of quail habitat were received and approved for cost-share assistance. The total estimated cost of the proposed projects was \$56,782.92, requesting \$51,891.14 in cost-share assistance. By the end of the project year, a total of 96 projects (63 % of the proposed projects) had been completed and involved the development and/or maintenance of 690.71 acres of quail habitat. The total cost of completed projects was valued at \$31,455.03 with the Game Bird Habitat Stamp Program providing \$29,661.19 in cost-share reimbursement.

A breakdown of habitat development and maintenance projects is shown in Table 1. A breakdown of practices and funding by Habitat Priority Area is shown in Table 2. Due to end of fiscal year deadlines, a total of 40 projects (206.86 acres) that were completed during the 2005-06 growing season were not included in the above summary. These projects were either completed after the fiscal year deadline of July 1 or due to a delay in payment processes their payment was paid out of 2006-07 Game Bird Habitat Stamp funds. The breakdown of these past-deadline projects included 4 projects (25.8 acres) in the Pheasant Priority Areas (totaling \$2,361.94 in actual costs and \$2,361.94 in actual payments) and 36 projects (181.06 acres) in the Quail Priority Areas (totaling \$12,201.90 in actual costs and \$12,138.21 in actual payments). The Game Bird Stamp payments of the past-deadline projects (\$14,500.15) brings the total Game Bird Stamp payments for the 2005-06 growing season to \$74,298.58, with the actual cost of projects being \$66,446.14.

Table 1. Status of Habitat Practices Enrolled Pheasant and Quail Habitat Priority Areas 2004-05

Practice	Practices Approved				Practices Completed			
	Pheasant Areas		Quail Areas		Pheasant Areas		Quail Areas	
	N ¹	Acres	N	Acres	N	Acres	N	Acres
Strip Mowing	1	0.5	3	20.0	1	0.5	2	15.0
Strip Disking	0	0	22	170.9	0	0	15	121.4
Strip Spraying	1	3.5	7	28.1	0	0	7	28.1
Legume Inter-seeding	0	0	5	37.7	0	0	4	25.7
Edge feathering	0	0	10	10.0	0	0	6	6.0
Fence Row Maintenance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prescribed Burning	4	47.75	12	160.0	3	39.5	11	151.0
Fire Break Creation	1	2.5	2	10.85	1	2.5	1	6.85
Fire Break Seeding	2	12.0	0	0	1	3.0	0	0
Fescue Eradication	0	0	9	64.4	0	0	4	34.9
Warm Season Grass Estab.	10	131.5	9	44.18	5	64.3	1	9.58
Cool Season Grass Estab.	1	2.0	4	20.5	1	2.0	2	7.0
Natural Revegetation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grain Food Plots	4	8.5	13	58.0	3	3.5	9	28.5
Legume Food Plots	1	5.0	5	12.0	0	0	2	6.0
Tree and Shrub Planting	6	22.3	2	1.5	6	22.3	0	0
Permanent Forest Opening	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Regeneration Opening	1	10.0	1	4.0	1	10.0	1	4.0
Wetland Development	0	0	2	10.0	0	0	2	10.0
Water Hole Development	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Habitat Protection	1	15.5	2	3.63	1	15.49	2	3.63
Other	7	33.1	3	30.3	0	0	0	0
CP33	15	138.6	35	249.7	11	119.4	21	167.8
CCRP	10	82.2	0	0	8	72.5	0	0
CRP	2	65.7	0	0	2	65.7	0	0
MCM	0	0	6	65.25	0	0	6	65.25
Totals	67	580.65	152	1001.01	44	420.69	96	690.71

¹ Number of individual practices – not number of individual contracts

Table 2. Pheasant and Quail Habitat Priority Area Practices (2005-06) by Habitat Priority Area

Habitat Priority Area	Practices Approved			Practices Completed		
	Number	Estimated Cost	Estimated Payment	Number	Actual Cost	Actual Payment
Pheasant	67	37,966.07	31,547.25	44	28,279.71	22,285.14
Quail	152	56,782.92	51,891.14	96	31,455.03	29,661.19
Statewide	219	\$94,748.99	\$83,438.39	140	\$59,734.74	\$51,946.33

Exhibit A. Indiana Pheasant and Quail Habitat Priority Areas 2005-06

